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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

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TOPIC Volkspolizei Dienststelle 2247 in Gera.

EVALUATION

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DATE OF CONTENT

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REFERENCES

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REMARKS

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1. Prior to late April 1951, Volkspolizei Dienststelle (VPD) 2247 in Gera was, as are the other VPDs, organized into 3 infantry Kommandos, 1 artillery Kommando and 7 Sonderabteilungen. The 1st Sonderabteilung was a reconnaissance unit, the 2d a signal unit, the 3d an engineer unit, the 4th an AT artillery unit, the 5th an AA unit, the 6th a heavy mortar unit and the 7th an armored unit. The transportation section at the headquarters and the 1st, 2d and 3d Sonderabteilungen were subordinate to the chief of staff of the VPD. The chief of the supply section at the headquarters was responsible for rations, clothing, fuel supply, medical, and maintenance service.
2. Heavy weapons available at the time of observation included 1 T-34 tank, 1 German armored reconnaissance car in need of repair, 1 German AT gun, 1 Soviet 76.2-mm AT gun, 2 model 18 heavy field howitzers and 2 model 18 heavy field guns. In addition, an undetermined number of other Soviet weapons were kept in a locked shed.
3. The officers of the unit included:

Rank and NameAppointment

VP Kommandeur Fluhr. (fnu)

Commanding officer, wearer of VP medal who attended the officer school in Saratov until the end of 1950.

VP Oberrat Leister. (fnu)

PK officer, a graduate of an Antifa school in the U.S.S.R. and of the PK school in Torgau

VP Oberrat Lauenroth (fnu)

Chief of staff, an ex-infantry lieutenant and graduate of an Antifa school in the U.S.S.R. He was director of training with the former VP Bereitschaft in Quedlinburg in 1949 and 1950

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<u>Rank and Name</u>	<u>Appointment</u>
VP Kommandeur Pietsch (fnu)	Director of training, an ex-officer, who was previously employed with the HVA and attended the officer school in Saratov until the end of 1950
VP Rat Hentschler (fnu)	Director of artillery training, an ex-artillery first lieutenant, who graduated from an Antifa school during his PW captivity.
VP Oberrat Kewel (fnu)	Director of technical training, a graduate of an Antifa school.
VP Oberrat Mueller (fnu)	Administrative officer.
VP Rat Kuhn (fnu)	Signal-communications officer, an ex-sergeant of the signal corps.
VP Rat Zaun (fnu)	1st propagandist, graduated from an Antifa school during his PW captivity.
VP Oberkommissar Drueckhammer (fnu)	2d propagandist. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
VP Rat Grab (fnu)	[redacted]
VP Kommandeur May (fnu)	SED secretary, a veteran member of the Communist party and a wearer of the VP medal. Chief of the SED control commission. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
VP Rat Heisse (fnu)	[redacted] Commanding officer of 1st Kommando, an ex-air force captain, who graduated from an Antifa school in the U.S.S.R.
VP Oberkommissar Czogalla (fnu)	Commanding officer of 2d Kommando.
VP Rat Pieske (fnu)	Commanding officer of 3d Kommando
VP Rat Hellwig (fnu)	who graduated from an Antifa school
VP Rat Enders (fnu)	Commanding officer of 4th Kommando
VP Rat Bross (fnu)	who was previously commanding officer of a Kommando in Frankenberg.
	Director of training of 4th Kommando
	an ex-officer.
	Commanding officer of 6th Sonderabteilung, who probably graduated from an Antifa school and had been tactical instructor with the VP Bereitschaft in Prora. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

4.

[redacted] a conference at the HVA headquarters in Berlin Adlershof [redacted] lasted from 10 to 12 April 1951 and dealt with the reorganization of the former VP Bereitschaften, the new designations, and the 1951 training program. The conference was presided over by VP Generalinspekteur Hoffmann. Detailed reports were delivered by Generalinspekteur Rudolf Doelling, FK chief; VP Inspekteur Bernhard Bechler, chief of staff; and VP Kommandeur Roellig.

5. From 15 to 17 March 1951 [redacted]

[redacted] a conference at the signal battalion of the HVA which was located in a former factory building in Niederlehme. The signal unit was [redacted] 50X1-HUM

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commanded by VP Kommandeur Roellig (fnu), who previously had been director of training at the VP school in Pirna. * The conference dealt with the organization and missions of the signal components of the VPDs, the introduction of the tactical symbols of the Soviet Army, and the VP signal training in general. Officers in Niederlehme, where there is also a VP signal school, included: VP Rat Roeder (fnu), chief of staff, who formerly was instructor at the VP school in Pirna; VP Rat Zimmer (fnu), director of training, an ex-signal officer, who formerly was instructor in Kochstedt; VP Inspekteur Reymann (fnu), liaison officer to the HVA and VPDs, who formerly was deputy school commandant in Pirna; VP Oberkommissar Fritze (fnu), officer in charge of training manuals, who formerly was operations officer at the VP Bereitschaft in Kochstedt; VP Oberkommissar Zacher (fnu), officer in charge of signal equipment, who previously had performed the same function with the former VP Bereitschaft in Kochstedt; and VP Kommissar Schulze (fnu), officer in charge of the stocks of signal equipment at the central supply depot, Magerviehnhof. ** There were plans to establish a central VP supply depot at Niederlehme.

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6. In March 1951

Gas defense training was taught on the basis of old German manuals and included instruction in the use of German Army gas masks; effects of, and protection against, chemical agents; use of decontamination agents for skin and arms and of gas protective clothing; decontamination of terrain, and influence of weather on the use of chemical agents. The equipment available for training included 12 gas masks of the German Army, 2 so-called people's gas masks, 1 gas mask of the Polish Army, 1 gas mask of the Soviet Army, and some German antigas paulins and visual aid charts. The issue to the unit of German gas masks, Soviet carbon oxide masks, gas identification sets and samples of chemical warfare agents was scheduled. The training of a gas defense team for each Abteilung was planned to be completed by October 1951. A gas defense Zug equipped with special vehicles was to be activated with the VPD. A conference of the chiefs of gas defense at the HVA dealt with the activation of a chemical Abteilung with the VPD for the offensive use of chemical warfare agents which would be fired from Soviet mortars.

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* Comment. The report confirms previous information on the signal battalion of the HVA in Niederlehme and its commanding officer, VP Kommandeur Roellig. (fnu)

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** Comment. VP Inspekteur Reymann (fnu) is carried as chief of the Signal Communications Section of the HVA.

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